



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE
**GRANDVIEW, ST. JOSEPH, TWO KC FELONS INDICTED
FOR ILLEGAL FIREARM POSSESSION**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that four area residents were indicted by a federal grand jury today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms. Today's indictments, Graves said, are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Kevin T. Givens**, 41, of Grandview, was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of five firearms.

The federal indictment alleges that **Givens** was in possession of a Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun, a Savage .22-caliber rifle, a Remington .22-caliber rifle, a Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun and a Remington 20-gauge shotgun on Nov. 16, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Givens** has 10 previous criminal felony convictions for tampering, attempted burglary, burglary, assault, false impersonation, receiving stolen property and forgery.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel M. Nelson. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Mark B. Davidson**, 41, of St. Joseph, was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Davidson** was in possession of a Hi-Point .38-caliber pistol on Jan. 27, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Davidson** has a 2003 criminal felony conviction for resisting arrest, a 1994 criminal felony conviction for sexual

abuse and a 1983 criminal felony conviction for trespassing.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph W. Vanover. It was investigated by the St. Joseph, Mo., Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Damon L. Hargrove**, 33, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Hargrove** was in possession of a Jennings 9 mm semi-automatic pistol on Nov. 19, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Hargrove** has two 1995 criminal felony convictions for drug trafficking, a 1995 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon and a 1991 criminal felony conviction for burglary.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel M. Nelson. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Walter Merritt, III**, 37, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Merritt** was in possession of a Remington 6 mm rifle on Nov. 18, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Merritt** has two 1991 criminal felony convictions for robbery and sale of a controlled substance.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel M. Nelson. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in these indictments are simply accusations and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow